

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of Meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met at 12:00 p.m. on September 20 at the County Administration Building with commissioners Becky Allgood, Lynn Pruitt, Jim Nepple, and Lisa Wertzbaugher. Mary Beveridge and Brian Wright present. Bill Koellner was excused. Also present was Sherry Seright.

The Treasurer's report was unchanged from the August meeting.

Mary reported that there would be a meeting of the Friends' Group of the Historic Jail in late October. At the present time Lynn Pruitt, Bette Schneider, JoAnn Carlson and Brian Wright will be at the meeting. Mary will also contact Randy Naber about the meeting. Lisa said she would email Jeff Boling at Kent Corporation about funding. Lisa said we should submit an HRDP grant request for the Historic Jail by April 1. Jim said that if a project is denied a grant the first time, we should resubmit our request several times.

Jim reported on Planning for Preservation. He said we should find out in January about CLG's. Jim said he went to the Heritage meeting, which is the umbrella group for about 8 organizations, including the Friends of the Old Barn, the Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill, Friends of Melpine School, Friends of the Old Stone Church, and the Genealogical Society and a few others. Jim will contact the Melpine School and Genealogical Society about rural schools and cemeteries.

Lisa reported on the Fairgrounds Project. She said the Harvest Hall is to be a new building and is now fully funded. Bids will be reviewed next week, and work will begin in early spring. Some materials can be torn up and reused in the new building. Otherwise, there has been little communication from the Fair Board. The Board reported it wants more information on future construction plans so they can review the plans.

Jim said the 501(c)(5) status has been reinstated for the Fairgrounds. It is for non-profits that do not need to pay taxes. Contributions to a 501(c)(5) are not deductible as a charitable contribution. For donors who want to have a deduction for a charity contribution, the funds need to go through the Community Foundation.

Becky reported on Downtown Wilton. The art work on the buildings will begin in 2019 and a painter has already been designated. She said facades must be completed before storeowners can work on interiors. So storeowners are anxious to complete the facades.

Lynn reported that we are awaiting a date for the State Nominating Review Committee meeting on the Old Barn.

Lynn reported on the Downtown Nichols project. They have already received about \$900.00, which is being held by the Community Foundation. Lynn is also involved with the Friends Group in Nichols. He said Jennifer Price is coming back to Nichols October 16 to check on the buildings. A \$5,500.00 grant has been received. Lynn showed the REAP-HRDP metal plaque he has received and a window decal.

Lynn reported there are two more TAN projects in the future: homes and churches in Nichols.

Lisa reported on the status of Downtown West Liberty. They did not get the CDBG grant but will reapply in April. Bill and Lisa have a 2-year commitment which will expire in December 2018. Lisa will then direct her attention to the Historic Jail project and Bill to the Nichols projects.

Commissioners reluctantly accepted the resignation of Bette Schneider. Sherry Seright said she had received an application, which would be voted on by the Board of Supervisors.

Lynn said we need to submit our goals when applying for CLG grants. He provided a draft he prepared to be used as our Mission Statement and be put on the county website. Brian will work on the draft to be reviewed at the October meeting.

Jim also said those working on the Historic Jail should first meet with Charla Schafer of the Community Foundation.

Lynn said there is to be a conference on Rural Schools September 28-29. He will attend 1 day of the event.

Lynn reminded commissioners of an Old Barn Tour this weekend. Electricity to the Old Barn has been restored.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be at noon, **Thursday October 18** at the County Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beveridge

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission